

**From:** Kevin Loechner  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:57pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

The proposed Microsoft settlement amounts to a slap on the wrist for Microsoft's predatory business practices. This settlement does nothing but preserve the status quo, which allows Microsoft to continue exploiting their situation as before. First of all something must be done to end the "Microsoft Tax", in which OEM's are charged a licensing fee by Microsoft for each computer they produce, regardless of a Microsoft Operating System product being installed on a given machine. This fee is then passed along to consumers, who assume they are getting Windows for free with their machine. Microsoft must also be forced to open up it's APIs and document formats, so third party software companies actually are given a fair opportunity to produce a product that works as well as Microsoft's products on the Windows Operating Systems. With the control that Microsoft is given in keeping their document formats and APIs closed, no other company really has a chance to compete with Microsoft since they control the Operating System. Thank you for taking the time to take my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,  
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